

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "yes," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1617, the Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act.

Whether it is a hurricane, tornado, fire, or flood, we are all too familiar with a natural disaster's devastating impact on our communities and constituents. Following a disaster, the SBA provides valuable services and loans to businesses and homes affected.

Due to the rural areas being sparsely populated, they are often outliers when it comes to disaster assistance. This important legislation corrects this unintended consequence by creating a rural category for SBA-declared disasters.

Additionally, the legislation requires the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to report on how rural areas are specifically impacted by disasters, and the legislation requires the SBA to annually report on all rural disaster declarations.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy in rural communities, and we must ensure that they have the ability to receive SBA assistance when a disaster strikes.

I thank my Senate colleagues for their support for rural communities and their work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1617 will provide rural areas with enhanced eligibility for SBA-disaster-declared loans. This bipartisan bill takes an important step to aid rural communities and small businesses when a disaster strikes.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1617 passed the Senate in September, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This legislation to update SBA's policy to provide assistance to homeowners and businesses in remote rural areas is long overdue. Individuals affected by natural disasters need SBA assistance now more than ever, particularly with the threat of major disasters due to climate change.

A business' location shouldn't determine their eligibility for aid in the wake of a natural disaster. Simply put, it is not fair for SBA loans to be available for individuals impacted by a tornado or flood in an urban area, but not a remote rural area just because the number of properties damaged by the disaster didn't meet an arbitrary threshold.

The SBA's disaster lending program has been an essential tool helping people get back on their feet after a disaster and the program should be available to help as many people as possible.

I thank Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER for working with me to get this bill passed today.

In the 117th Congress, Representative LUETKEMEYER joined the committee as

the ranking member, and while we may not have always seen eye to eye, we were able to set aside our differences to bring more than 20 bipartisan bills to the floor, including legislation to extend the statute of limitations for fraud cases involving PPP and COVID EIDL.

The spirit of bipartisanship has always been central to the day-to-day operations of the committee. I look forward to continuing this tradition. American small businesses deserve nothing less.

I once again thank the members of the committee and their staff who have worked tirelessly through this Congress to aid small business owners and entrepreneurs throughout the country. I am incredibly proud of all the work our committee has done to support small businesses when they needed it the most.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on S. 1617, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1617.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1193. An act to amend title VI of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to establish a program under which the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall support or conduct research on valvular heart disease and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 4052. An act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treated regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 3662) entitled "An Act to temporarily increase the cost share authority for aqueous film forming foam input-based testing equipment, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the

Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announced that appointment of the following individuals to be members of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:

Dr. Zakiya Smith Ellis of Georgia.

Debbie Cochran of California.

Dr. Jose Luis Cruz Rivera of Arizona.

COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONES ACT OF 2022

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3875) to require the President to develop and maintain products that show the risk of natural hazards across the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3875

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 101(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by adding "; and" at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) identifying and improving the climate and natural hazard resilience of vulnerable communities."

SEC. 3. NATURAL HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 206. NATURAL HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONE.—The term 'community disaster resilience zone' means a census tract designated by the President under subsection (d)(1).

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(A) a State;

"(B) an Indian tribal government; or

"(C) a local government.

"(b) PRODUCTS.—The President shall continue to maintain a natural hazard assessment program that develops and maintains products that—

"(1) are available to the public; and

"(2) define natural hazard risk across the United States.

"(c) FEATURES.—The products maintained under subsection (b) shall, for lands within States and areas under the jurisdiction of Indian tribal governments—

"(1) show the risk of natural hazards; and

"(2) include ratings and data for—

"(A) loss exposure, including population equivalence, buildings, and agriculture;

"(B) social vulnerability;

"(C) community resilience; and

"(D) any other element determined by the President.

"(d) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONES DESIGNATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President makes the update and enhancement required under subsection (e)(4), and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the President shall identify and designate community disaster resilience zones, which shall be—

"(A) the 50 census tracts assigned the highest individual hazard risk ratings; and

“(B) subject to paragraph (3), in each State, not less than 1 percent of census tracts that are assigned high individual risk ratings.

“(2) RISK RATINGS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the President shall use census tract risk ratings derived from a product maintained under subsection (b) that—

“(A) reflect—

“(i) high levels of individual hazard risk ratings based on an assessment of the inter-section of—

“(I) loss to population equivalence;

“(II) building value; and

“(III) agriculture value;

“(ii) high social vulnerability ratings and low community resilience ratings; and

“(iii) any other elements determined by the President; and

“(B) reflect the principal natural hazard risks identified for the respective census tracts.

“(3) GEOGRAPHIC BALANCE.—In identifying and designating the community disaster resilience zones described in paragraph (1)(B)—

“(A) for the purpose of achieving geographic balance, when applicable, the President shall consider making designations in coastal, inland, urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

“(B) the President shall include census tracts on Tribal lands located within a State.

“(4) DURATION.—The designation of a community disaster resilience zone under paragraph (1) shall be effective for a period of not less than 5 years.

“(e) REVIEW AND UPDATE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022, and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the President shall—

“(1) with respect to any product that is a natural hazard risk assessment—

“(A) review the underlying methodology of the product; and

“(B) receive public input on the methodology and data used for the product;

“(2) consider including additional data in any product that is a natural hazard risk assessment, such as—

“(A) the most recent census tract data;

“(B) data from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census, a successor survey, a similar survey, or another data source, including data by census tract on housing characteristics and income;

“(C) information relating to development, improvements, and hazard mitigation measures;

“(D) data that assesses past and future loss exposure, including analysis on the effects of a changing climate on future loss exposure;

“(E) data from the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

“(F) other information relevant to prioritizing areas that have—

“(i) high risk levels of—

“(I) natural hazard loss exposure, including population equivalence, buildings, infrastructure, and agriculture; and

“(II) social vulnerability; and

“(ii) low levels of community resilience;

“(3) make publicly available any changes in methodology or data used to inform an update to a product maintained under subsection (b); and

“(4) update and enhance the products maintained under subsection (b), as necessary.

“(f) NATURAL HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT INSIGHTS.—In determining additional data to include in products that are natural hazard risk assessments under subsection (e)(2), the President shall consult with, at a minimum—

“(1) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

“(2) the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service;

“(3) the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Director of the Bureau of the Census, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

“(4) the Secretary of Defense and the Commanding Officer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers;

“(5) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

“(6) the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the United States Geological Survey;

“(7) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and

“(8) the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

“(g) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONE.—With respect to financial assistance provided under section 203(i) to perform a resilience or mitigation project within, or that primarily benefits, a community disaster resilience zone, the President may increase the amount of the Federal share described under section 203(h) to not more than 90 percent of the total cost of the resilience or mitigation project.

“(h) RESILIENCE OR MITIGATION PROJECT PLANNING ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide financial, technical, or other assistance under this title to an eligible entity that plans to perform a resilience or mitigation project within, or that primarily benefits, a community disaster resilience zone.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of assistance provided under paragraph (1) shall be to carry out activities in preparation for a resilience or mitigation project or seek an evaluation and certification under subsection (i)(2) for a resilience or mitigation project before the date on which permanent work of the resilience or mitigation project begins.

“(3) APPLICATION.—If required by the President, an eligible entity seeking assistance under paragraph (1) shall submit an application in accordance with subsection (i)(1).

“(4) FUNDING.—In providing assistance under paragraph (1), the President may use amounts set aside under section 203(i).

“(i) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONE PROJECT APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If required by the President or other Federal law, an eligible entity shall submit to the President an application at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the President may reasonably require.

“(2) EVALUATION AND CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which an eligible entity submits an application under paragraph (1), the President shall evaluate the application to determine whether the resilience or mitigation project that the entity plans to perform within, or that primarily benefits, a community disaster resilience zone—

“(i) is designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property, such as damage to critical services and facilities; and

“(ii) substantially reduces the risk of, or increases resilience to, future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering.

“(B) CERTIFICATION.—If the President determines that an application submitted under paragraph (1) meets the criteria described in subparagraph (A), the President shall certify the proposed resilience or mitigation project.

“(C) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.—The certification of a proposed resilience or mitiga-

tion project under subparagraph (B) shall not be construed to exempt the resilience or mitigation project from the requirements of any other law.

“(3) PROJECTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT.—With respect to a resilience or mitigation project certified under paragraph (2)(B) that involves the displacement of a resident from any occupied housing unit, the entity performing the resilience or mitigation project shall—

“(A) provide, at the option of the resident, a suitable and habitable housing unit that is, with respect to the housing unit from which the resident is displaced—

“(i) of a comparable size;

“(ii) located in the same local community or a community with reduced hazard risk; and

“(iii) offered under similar costs, conditions, and terms;

“(B) ensure that property acquisitions resulting from the displacement and made in connection with the resilience or mitigation project—

“(i) are deed restricted in perpetuity to preclude future property uses not relating to mitigation or resilience; and

“(ii) are the result of a voluntary decision by the resident; and

“(C) plan for robust public participation in the resilience or mitigation project.”.

(b) NATIONAL RISK INDEX FUNDING.—Nothing in section 206 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall be construed to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency from using amounts available to maintain and update the National Risk Index until the earlier of—

(1) the date on which those amounts are transferred to another source; and

(2) 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this Act shall only apply with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 3875.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act, led by Congresswoman SHARICE DAVIDS in the House, will enable the Federal Emergency Management Agency to identify the communities most in need of mitigation projects and to help them access the necessary funding and support to complete such projects.

Climate change and development in high-risk zones has created a never-ending stream of disaster impacts that cause billions of dollars in damage around the country, which taxpayer

dollars must cover. This legislation will help protect communities and reduce the financial burden on taxpayers by targeting mitigation investments to communities that have the fewest resources to invest in resilience and are expected to incur the greatest amount of disaster damage.

By directing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to publicly designate the most in-need and at-risk census tracts as Community Disaster Resilience Zones, stakeholders can effectively target mitigation investments to these communities and make them more resilient. This legislation also authorizes Federal cost share flexibility for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant project applicants in designated Community Disaster Resilience Zones.

I ask my colleagues to support the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3875, the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022, which amends the Stafford Act to include a section on natural disaster risk assessment.

This bill's intent is to make the public more aware of the inherent risks of disasters that may affect their communities.

It directs the President, or FEMA, to maintain a publicly available risk assessment program that shows what hazards pose the most threat to communities. It also directs the President, or FEMA, to provide financial or technical assistance to communities in designated community disaster resilience zones.

Establishing these zones will help communities, States, and the private sector better plan investments in mitigation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support for S. 3875 signed by 32 organizations.

DECEMBER 5, 2022.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFAZIO AND RANKING MEMBER GRAVES: We, the undersigned organizations, write to express support for S. 3875, the Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZ) Act of 2022, which the Senate passed by unanimous consent and is nearly identical to the bill (H.R. 7242) your committee passed. Collectively, our organizations represent a wide variety of constituencies, including business, conservation, emergency managers, housing, infrastructure, local government, public safety, science, and taxpayer organizations. We commend the CDRZ Act bill sponsors, Rep-

resentatives Sharice Davids and Garret Graves and Senators Gary Peters and Rob Portman, for their bipartisan, bicameral leadership and thank them for introducing the CDRZ Act bills. This legislation is a critical, foundational step toward prioritizing and directing a whole-of-nation focus on the most vulnerable communities facing the risk of potentially life-threatening and economically devastating climate and natural disaster events.

The CDRZ Act would amend the Stafford Act to establish a statutory structure to identify and designate CDRZ communities that are the most in need and most at risk to natural hazards, such as hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, and wildfires, to increase public and private sector investments in housing, infrastructure, and community-wide resilience. Building smart, modern, resilient infrastructure, including nature-based infrastructure, has long been among our top priorities. We support the CDRZ Act, which would:

Amend the Stafford Act by adding a requirement that FEMA maintain and update products and tools that define natural hazard risk across the U.S. and use that dataset to identify and designate CDRZ communities that are the most in need and most at risk to natural hazards;

Authorize the President to provide CDRZ-designated communities with assistance and funding for pre-disaster mitigation planning and projects to increase resilience against the identified hazards; and

Help prioritize and attract additional public and private sector funding (including public-private partnerships) for resilience projects in or primarily benefitting CDRZ-designated communities.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to continuing to work with you and Congress to ensure our communities most threatened by climate and natural disaster risk and most economically vulnerable have the support, resources, and opportunities they need to improve their resilience.

Sincerely,

US Resiliency Council (USRC), U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS), SmarterSafer Coalition, SBP, Resilience Innovation Hub, Reinsurance Association of America (RAA), R Street Institute, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC), National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), National Housing Conference (NHC), National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC), National Association of Counties (NACo), Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP).

International Code Council (ICC), International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), Ecological Restoration Business Association (ERBA), The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers (CIAB), Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), BuildStrong Coalition, Big City Emergency Managers (BCEM), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), American Planning Association (APA), American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), After the Fire: Recover, Rebuild, Reimagine. (ATF3R).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

My colleague, the chair of the subcommittee I have been blessed to serve on as ranking member, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I thank her for working with us in a bipartisan way to move this bill forward.

Disaster resiliency matters in a district like mine that encompasses the Illinois and Mississippi River Basin. We see disasters on a regular basis. In fact, when I got to this institution 10 years ago, one of the first votes I had to make was on funding Superstorm Sandy relief. I remember saying the first time that I had a chance to talk about disaster assistance, as a brand new freshman, my comments were if the Federal Government should do something right, it is helping communities recover from disasters that they had no control over.

This is another good bipartisan step to making sure that happens in communities all across this Nation, from Montana to Washington, D.C., to Illinois and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this fine piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

This bill will also help my district, which was built on the rivers and where disaster resilience is most needed.

In closing, we know that investments in mitigation measures save up to \$11 for every \$1 spent. This legislation will save taxpayer dollars by investing in mitigation and protecting vulnerable communities.

I thank my colleague, SHARICE DAVIDS, for her work on this issue, and I support this targeted, data-driven approach. I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3875.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REPEAL OF OBSOLETE DHS CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3499) to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006